

Darrington Ranger Station, (Building 2275)
Fire and Truck Storage Building
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
1405 Emmens Street
Darrington
Snohomish County
Washington

HABS No. WA-191-C

HABS
WASH,
31-DAR,
1-C-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of Interior
San Francisco, California 94102

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
DARRINGTON RANGER STATION, (BUILDING 2275)
Fire and Truck Storage Building

HABS No. WA-191-C

HABS
WASH,
31-DAR
1-C-

Location: Darrington Ranger Station
1405 Emma St.
Darrington
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
Snohomish County
Washington

USGS Darrington, Wash. Quadrangle (7.5')
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
10.603740.5346040

Present Owner: Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
21905 64th Ave. W
Mountlake Terrace, Washington 98043

Present Occupant: Same

Present Use: Tool and equipment storage

Significance: Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Building 2275, the Darrington Fire and Truck Storage Building, is an element of a National Register thematic group entitled "USDA Forest Service Administrative Buildings in the States of Oregon and Washington, Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps." In common with other buildings in the group, Building 2275 exemplifies an architectural style developed by the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service to impart agency identity, and denotes the Service's transition from custodial superintendence to extensive resource management (Throop 1986).

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: Prior to 1933 (USDA Forest Service, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie N. F. cultural resources files). Wood shingle exterior in alternate rows with staggered butts matchea treatment of other Darrington buildings constructed in the early 1920's, and contrasta with the horizontal weatherboard and vertical board-and-batten siding employed in Depresaion-era buildings.
2. Architect: Unknown
3. Original and subsequent owners: Building 2275 has been the property of the USDA Forest Service, since its construction (USDA Forest Service, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie N. F. Lands files). When constructed, it was located within the Snoqualmie National Forest. The Darrington Ranger District was transferred to the Mt. Baker National Forest in 1933, and the Mt. Baker National Forest was merged with the Snoqualmie National Forest to form the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie in 1974.
4. Builder, contractor, supplier: USDA Forest Service, temporary labor.
5. Original plans and construction: Building 2275 did not employ a standard plan, and no copies of the original plans are extant. The building has a poured concrete foundation, rectangular plan, and is one and one-half stories tall. Nailed wood frame, wood shake gable roof of medium pitch. Exterior walls of wood shingles in alternate rows with staggered butta. Six-light bottom-pivot windows on all elevations; paired six-light casement windows under gables. Panel door offset to right on east elevation; sliding garage bay door offset to left on west end.
6. Alterations and additions: No exterior alterations are evident. The interior was re-partitioned at an unknown date. Although the building has always been used for fire equipment storage, the fire tool and hose racks on the interior are not original. The date at which they were added is unknown.

- B. **Historical Context:** The Darrington Ranger Station is a complex of buildings constructed between 1921 and 1983. Initially, the Darrington Ranger District was a unit of the Snoqualmie National Forest. Following creation of the Snoqualmie in 1908, the Darrington District office was established three miles south of town. Soon thereafter, it was moved about eight miles west of town. By 1910, the District Ranger had established an office in his house, within Darrington itself (Cameron n.d.: 10).

By 1921, the workload and personnel had grown to the point that a larger site was necessary. Construction began on an office and residence for the Ranger and assistants on the site of the present Station.

The Darrington Ranger District was transferred to the Mt. Baker National Forest in 1933, during a major reorganization of Forest and District boundaries designed to reduce administrative costs during the Depression. A Civilian Conservation Corps camp (F-15) was established at Darrington, and construction began on a number of new buildings (Field 1950: 104).

The Fire and Truck Storage Building was constructed prior to 1933, using temporary labor (USDA Forest Service, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie N. F., Recreation files). Its style matches that of the Ranger's and Assistant Ranger's residences, constructed in 1921 and 1922, respectively. Little else is known about the history of the Station or its buildings, as individual building historical records were never prepared or have been lost, and no comprehensive administrative history of the Station has been compiled.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. **Architectural character:** While essentially a utilitarian building of simple construction, Building 2275 displays elements of Pacific Northwest Region architectural design that were precursors of the agency's Depression-era rustic style (Throop 1983): native materials, a gabled roof and multi-paned windows. The building does not display the varied exterior treatment characteristic of the rustic style, but does show

the alternating shingles and exposed rafters characteristic of 1920's buildings, reflecting influence from the Craftsman style.

Native materials, gabled roofs and multi-paned windows were widely employed by the Pacific Northwest Region during the Depression. Their use in Building 2275 reflects an earlier recognition of their suitability for conditions in the Region. The Regional rustic style was defined by Gail Throop (1983: 126). The following discussion is drawn from her analysis.

Native materials were believed to be responsive to and appropriate for the environment of the Pacific Northwest. Wood reflected local building traditions and the local economy. Wood structural materials, siding and roofing in Building 2275 display this design emphasis.

Gabled roofs were common, and were adapted to the prevailing precipitation conditions; pitch was adjusted to total precipitation and snow loads.

Multi-paned windows decorated as well as illuminated the Region's buildings, and had the incidental effect of recalling the Nation's historic roots by reflecting an element of Georgian architecture.

2. **Condition of fabric:** Remaining original fabric consists of structural members, siding, interior finish and windows. The original roofing has been replaced.

B. **Description of Exterior:**

1. **Overall dimensions:** 24 x 31 feet
2. **Foundation:** Poured concrete
3. **Walls:** Wood shingles, in alternating rows with staggered butts.
4. **Structural systems, framing:** Wood frame construction of 2 x 4 inch studs, 16 inches on center. W-type roof truss, with 2 x 6 inch rafters 24 inches on center and collars under the roof peak.

5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: None
6. Chimneys: Brick, offset slightly east of building center and north of ridgeline.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: One five-panel door offset to right on east elevation; one sliding garage bay door offset to left on west side.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Two six-light bottom pivot sash windows in east end, paired six-light pivoting sash windows with mullions under gable in east end; three six-light bottom pivot sash window in south side; one six-light bottom pivot sash window in west end, paired six-light bottom pivot sash windows with mullions under gable in west end; three six-light bottom pivot sash windows in north side.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with shakes.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Eaves with exposed rafters, north and south sides.
 - c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: None

C. Description of interior:

1. Floor plan: Rectangular
2. Stairways: L-shaped stairs providing access to storage attic, in southwest corner.
3. Flooring: 4-inch tongue-and-groove boards on first floor, 7-inch boards in attic.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: 7-inch board walls; attic is unfinished.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Panel door with screen leading to partitioned interior storage space. Hatch door leading to attic space.

- b. Windows: Plain board sills, balance of frame is flush.
- 6. Decorative features and trim: None
- 7. Hardware: Plain round knobs with rectangular plates on panel doors, U-handle on sliding door.
- 8. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: Oil stove
 - b. Lighting: Incandescent with bare bulb and fluorescent
 - c. Plumbing: None
 - d. Other equipment: None
- 9. Original furnishings: Workbench on north wall may be original.

D. Site:

- 1. General setting: The Darrington Ranger Station is located in a semi-rural setting at the east edge of the town of Darrington (population 1020). The compound is bounded on the east by Emmens Street, part of Washington State Route 530, and on the west by the Darrington airport (a grass strip). On the north, the Station adjoins a lumber mill log yard, and on the south it is bordered by single-family frame residences.

The existing landscape includes 42 other major and minor buildings within the compound west of Emmens Street. Generally, single-family residences are located in the southern third of the Station, administrative and service buildings are located in the northern two-thirds, and bunkhouses are also located in the northern portion of the compound. Natural vegetation is a second-growth western red cedar and western hemlock forest. Most residences and the office are surrounded by grass, and the administrative and service buildings by pavement and forest.

The Fire and Truck Storage Building is located adjacent to the former Road and Trail Warehouse (Building 2215), and is just east of a road leading to the residential area. It faces a residential trailer to the north, across an expanse of asphalt. The south side is forested.

2. **Historic landscape design:** The existing division into residential and administrative/service areas reflects a conscious element of Pacific Northwest Region landscape design. Once Districts had grown to a size that required service buildings, the buildings were sited in groups separated from residences. At Darrington, this pattern is evident on a site plan from the 1930's (USDA Forest Service, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie N. F. recreation files). Building 2275 was part of a rectangular building complex surrounding a gravel parking area. There are no historic planting plans available for the site; photographs show lawn and trees in informal arrangements on building lots.
3. **Outbuildings:** None

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. **Architectural drawings:** None found
- B. **Historic views:** Recreation files, Darrington Ranger District; Recreation files, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Supervisor's Office.
- C. **Interviews:** None
- D. **Bibliography:**
 1. **Primary and unpublished sources:**

USDA Forest Service, Darrington Ranger District, Darrington. Recreation files.

USDA Forest Service, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Supervisor's Office, Mountlake Terrace. Lands files.

USDA Forest Service, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Supervisor's Office, Mountlake Terrace. Recreation files, cultural resource site folder CR06-05-02-59.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Cameron, David A.

n.d. Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest history. Photocopy of typescript, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Recreation files, Mountlake Terrace.

Field, Newton

1950 The Mt. Baker almanac: a book of historical facts and figures. Mt. Baker National Forest, Bellingham.

Throop, E. Gail

1983 A characteristic expression: a thematic evaluation of Forest Service Depression-era administrative buildings in the Pacific Northwest. Contract Abstracts and CRM Archeology 3(2): 123-129.

Throop, E. Gail

1986 Darrington Ranger Station, USDA Forest Service administrative buildings in the states of Oregon and Washington, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Photocopy of typescript. Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Recreation files, Mountlake Terrace.

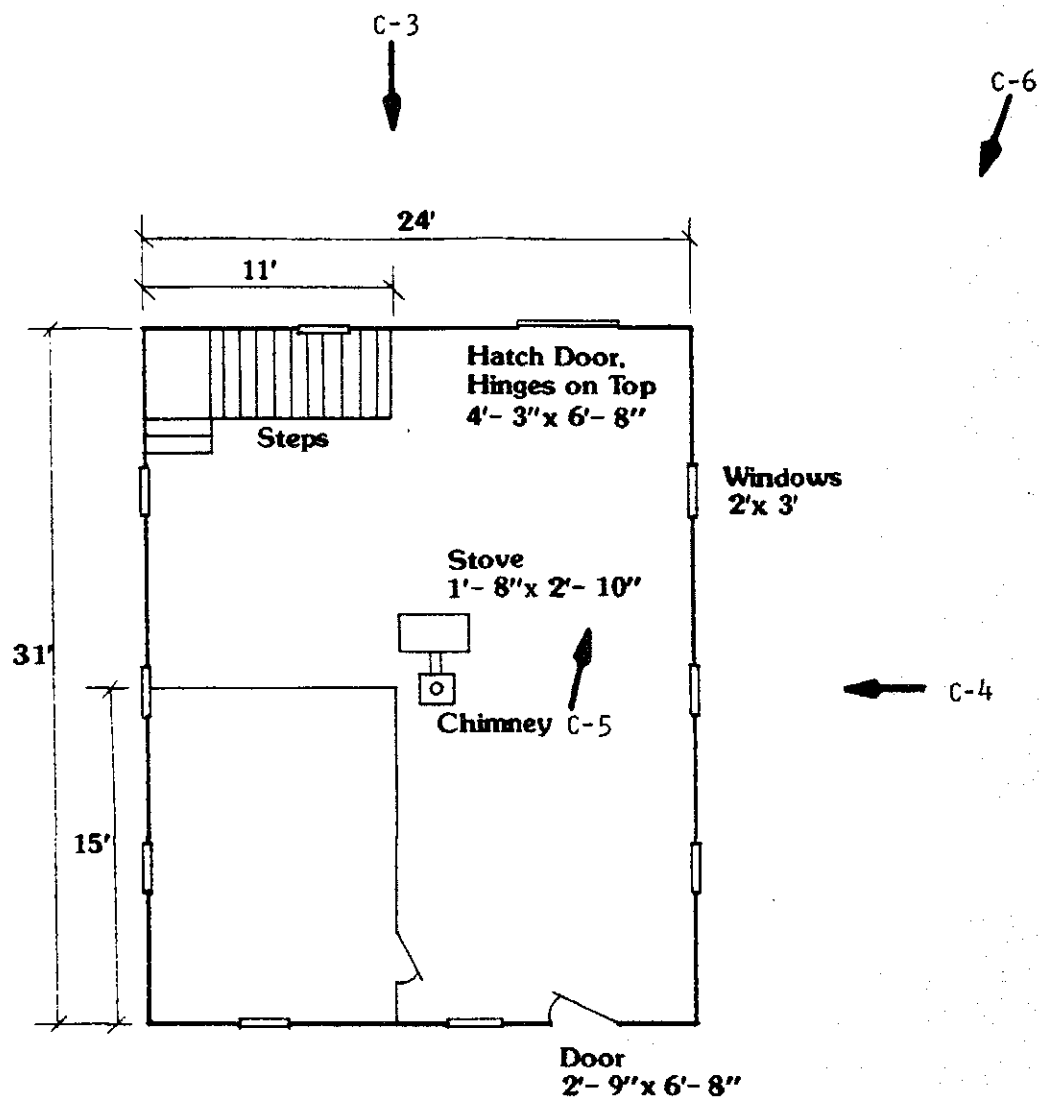
E. Likely sources not yet investigated: USDA National Agriculture Library, Beltsville, MD (historic views)

F. Supplemental material: None

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This documentation was prepared to mitigate the effects of a rehabilitation project, as stipulated in a Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement between the USDA Forest Service and the Historic American Buildings Survey, for the documentation of Depression-era administrative structures in Washington and Oregon, and dated September 25, 1986. The USDA Forest Service, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, prepared this documentation, completed January 8, 1992.

Prepared by: James A. McDonald
Title: Archeologist
Affiliation: Coronado N. F.
Date: July 11, 1992



1st Floor Sketch

Photograph Location & Direction